

TAIKOPROJECT

A SHORT COMPANY HISTORY

TAIKOPROJECT was founded in 2000 in Los Angeles, California by a group of young, emerging taiko drummers seeking to create a truly American style of taiko, blending traditional forms in which they were raised with an innovative and fresh aesthetic approach to the Japanese drum. Since that time the company has garnered critical acclaim from all over the world and amassed an impressive resume.

TAIKOPROJECT first received international notice when they became the first – and only - American taiko group to win the prestigious Tokyo International Taiko Contest in 2005, winning over all the Japanese taiko groups in attendance. That same year TAIKOPROJECT was cast in the Mitsubishi Eclipse commercial, the first and only national ad campaign to prominently feature taiko. They followed that up with performances in some of America's highest profile events, including the 2009 Academy Awards and the 2011 Grammy Awards. In 2012, TAIKOPROJECT performed for the televised National Cherry Blossom Parade in Washington, DC and the Fall X-Factor semi-finals. The company was honored to receive the annual Visionary Award for artistic excellence and achievement from the East West Players, the nation's foremost Asian American theatre.

TAIKOPROJECT has performed and recorded with some of the world's most well-known musical artists, including Stevie Wonder, Usher, rock band 30 Seconds to Mars, Alicia Keys, A.R. Rahman, John Legend, rapper Xzibit, Kanye West, Vicci Martinez, producer Squeak E. Clean, as well as international stars including Greek singer Antonis Remos, Persian singer Mansour, Olodum and DJ Tiesto.

MISSION STATEMENT

The **TAIKOPROJECT** is an ensemble of premiere taiko drummers dedicated to promoting and advancing the American art of taiko. Through public performances, education, and outreach activities, TAIKOPROJECT is committed to preserving taiko as a dynamic element of Japanese American culture and heritage. In addition to maintaining taiko as a community-based tradition, TAIKOPROJECT also incorporates unconventional and innovative concepts to expand artistic boundaries. Through these values, TAIKOPROJECT seeks not only to entertain audiences, but also to inform them about the history and integrity of taiko as an evolving art form.

=PRESENTER QUOTES

"TAIKOPROJECT--this ain't your mama's taiko, but it may be your hip, younger cousin's."

-L.A. Weekly, Los Angeles CA

"TAIKOPROJECT is a tsunami of sound. As pure as a tea ceremony, as fresh as hip-hop, and as focused as a laser, their show will stun you with their grace and precision"

- Port of L.A. Lobster Festival, Los Angeles CA

"Drum Nirvana." - Fresno Bee, Fresno CA

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"With an artful blending of music, theater, choreography, costumes and set design, TAIKOPROJECT immersed the audience in a special world where traditions of the past inspire art of the present."

- Director of Music Programs, [Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#)

"Brandishing traditional bachi sticks, the musicians circle and attack their wide drums with a violent, artful fluidity that harkens back to taiko's ancient roots in the martial arts. From there, the group draws from a broad palette of more western tones, including electronic instruments, hip-hop choreography, theatrical storytelling and video documentary. The blend allows for a much richer brand of songwriting than that of more purist taiko groups."

- [Philadelphia CityNews](#) PA

"TAIKOPROJECT is a terrific, youthful blend of tradition and emerging artistry. It is a hilarious and touching treatment of the artform of taiko and its deep importance to a distinctively American community...TAIKOPROJECT rings true."

- [ASU Public Events](#), Phoenix AZ

"TAIKOPROJECT's performances were a great success, leaving our audiences exuberant and ready for more. Our two packed houses were thrilled with TP's multi-genre approach and their unique American take on the Japanese art of taiko."

- [UW World Series](#), Seattle WA

"TAIKOPROJECT is one of the most exciting next generation ensembles playing today. They play with sheer pleasure and consummate skill, telling a story of taiko that is deeply personal and recognizably universal."

- [UCSD ArtPower!](#), La Jolla CA

"They perform with ample grace, strength, and precision. Their choreography is indeed spirited and tinged with enthusiasm, but Artistic Director Bryan Yamami has not neglected the intense focus and carefully-plotted symmetry that are hallmarks of taiko."

- [San Diego Arts](#), San Diego CA

"TAIKOPROJECT's talent, energy and professionalism blew us all away. Their educational school shows gave students the opportunity to play taiko along with learning the history and traditions of the taiko. TAIKOPROJECT performed for over 5,000 K-12th grade students and to a sold out crowd at our public performance and all at 6,500 feet above sea level!"

- [Tahoe Arts Project](#), South Lake Tahoe CA

"...they blew the roof off with their energy and willingness to take taiko into the 21st century by experimenting with various media and settings. They take American taiko outside the box."

- [International Examiner](#), Seattle WA

"Although the group has a certain youthful swagger, the players are respectful of the tradition without being obsequious. They back up their youthful bravado with a high level of technical ability, not relying on flash and effects to carry the day. Their brand of taiko is loud, fast and clean--the energy level set at maximum."

- [The Bulletin](#), Vancouver CDN

"Contemporary, classical, humorous, TAIKOPROJECT provides a powerful, energizing evening."

- [Columbia Theatre](#), Longview WA

" *TAIKOPROJECT is one of the best performances to grace our stage in the past 12 years. Their stage performance was clever, engaging, exciting, educational and energetic. They easily transitioned from an outreach with kindergartners to a workshop with university level percussion majors, keeping all information and tones age-appropriate and interesting.* "

- [Buckman Arts Center](#), Memphis TN

"*TAIKOPROJECT's performance was electric! There was a perfect blend of music, narrative, and movement, and it reinforced what was discussed in the classrooms. The finale involved audience participations with the students and when the teachers were brought up, the kids went crazy. It was a great moment.*"

- [Carpenter Center, CSU Long Beach](#), Long Beach CA

Performance with Vicci Martinez on [NBC's The Voice](#), Warner Brothers Studios, Burbank CA:

"*Coolest performance of the night!*" -Adam Levine, [Maroon 5](#)

"*The most powerful performance of the night!*" -[Blake Shelton](#)

"*That was a great performance!*" -[Christina Aguilera](#)



The TAIKOPROJECT is endorsed by the [Asano Taiko Company, Ltd.](#), founded in 1609 and one of Japan's oldest and most prestigious drum-makers. The world's top taiko groups play on Asano drums, including Kodo and Tao.